under the Craftsment Training Scheme through 5114 Industrial Training Institutes/Centres (ITI's/ITCs) spread all over the country. These institutes are under the administrative and financial control of respective State Governments. The courses offered at these institutes provide necessary skills to school leavers including those belonging to weaker section of the society to make them employable. There is a provision for paying a stipend of Rs. 100 per month per trainee to all the trainees of Government run ITI's.

(c) Does not arise.

Youngsters registered in State Employment Exchanges

2480. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youngsters registered in the State Employment Exchanges throughout the country who are above SSLC, below SSLC and upto 8th standard; and

(b) the steps taken and the amount allotted to provide employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Out of a total of around 4.14 crore jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country as on December 2003, around 3.03 crore were having educational qualification of 10th standard and above and around 1.11 crore were below 10th standard.

(b) Government have fixed a target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period in the normal growth process as well as through special employment generation programmes. These will help job seekers registered with employment exchanges also. Employment Exchanges are under the administrative and financial control of the respective State/UT Governments. Central Government do not allot any funds to them for this purpose.

New pension scheme

2481. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has offered to manage the New Pension Scheme contributions of the Central Government Employees; and